

17 SEP 1974

CIA Targeted on Perjury

By Jeremiah O'Leary
Star-News Staff Writer

Counsel for the Senate Multinational Corporations subcommittee have recommended that perjury proceedings be initiated by the Justice Department against former Asst. Secretary of State Charles E. Meyer and former CIA Director Richard Helms because of their testimony denying any U.S. financial or other intervention into the affairs of Chile.

Jerry Levinson, subcommittee staff attorney, in a confidential document prepared for Chairman Frank Church, D-Idaho, also recommended that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee reopen the confirmation hearings of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger because of indications that he "deceived the committee in the course of his confirmation hearing with respect to the extent and object of the CIA's activities in Chile."

The controversy over whether the United States covertly intervened in the politics of Chile against the government of Salvador Allende has focused anew on covert operations by the CIA.

At his press conference last night, President Ford conceded that "our government, like other governments, does take certain actions in the intelligence field to help implement foreign policy and protect national security."

Ford denied, however, that the United States had any role in the coup which overthrew the Allende regime a year ago.

The President said that the CIA money was made available in response to Allende's efforts to destroy the free press and opposition parties in Chile and that the monies sent to Chile were to thwart that particular end.

He said that the so-called 40 Committee should continue in existence but said that the Congress will be contacted to see if some more elaborate reporting system can be devised.

The Levinson report declares, "When the (Rep. Michael J.) Harrington summary of the (CIA Director William) Colby testimony is laid against the transcripts of the above (previous) hearings, it appears that Meyer committed perjury before the subcommittee in stating that the policy of the U.S. government was 'nonintervention' in the Chilean political process; Ambassador Helms in the course of his confirmation hearing committed perjury in stating that no money was passed to opponents of Allende and that no attempt was made in the September 1970 Chilean elections to prevent Allende from becoming president.

"Asst. Secretary of the Treasury (John) Hennessy, depending on the exact state of his knowledge, either perjured himself or seriously misled the subcommittee in stating that the primary consideration in U.S. economic policy toward the Allende government was Chile's credit worthiness."

Levinson advised Church that former Ambassador to Chile Edward Korry refused to answer relevant questions and gave "misleading" testimony but phrased his words so carefully that there is no basis for perjury. But he recommended that the subcommittee initiate contempt proceedings against Korry

for his refusal to answer questions without a legal basis for his refusal.

Whether or not perjury was committed, Levinson wrote, "It seems clear that the testimony of Meyer, Korry, (CIA Western Hemisphere chief William) Broe and Helms was contumacious. The subcommittee, should therefore, aside from possible perjury, initiate contempt proceedings against all four individuals named above."

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee meets today in executive session to consider the Levinson report and other matters. It is understood the Church subcommittee has not met on the Levinson report and that its totality will be considered by Chairman J. William Fulbright, D-Ark and other committee members for the first time today.

Levinson also recommended that the subcommittee reopen its 1973 hearings on the International Telephone & Telegraph role in Chile for the limited purpose of obtaining the testimony pursuant to subpoena of former National Security Council Latin American officer Arnold Nachmanoff and Ambassador Viron P. Vaky, Nachmanoff's predecessor, on the formulation of NSC policy toward Chile. Levinson recommended that the subcommittee hold in abeyance possible perjury or contempt proceedings against Hennessy.

The controversy came alive last week when Harrington, D-Mass, disclosed testimony of CIA Director Colby at closed meetings of the House Armed

Services Committee on Intelligence. Colby reportedly testified the Nixon administration authorized more than \$8 million be spent for covert CIA activities in Chile between 1970 and 1973 to make it impossible for Allende to govern. These decisions were made by the "40 Committee" of the NSC, which clears CIA activities, under the chairmanship of Kissinger.

LEVINSON and his staff reviewed the transcript of the ITT-Chile hearings, Kissinger's confirmation hearings and testimony by former Ambassador Nathaniel Davis and former Asst. Secretary of State Jack Kubisch before several congressional committees.

The subcommittee attorneys found there was no basis for perjury in the testimony of Broe, Vaky or former Secretary of Commerce Peter Peterson. But he said Davis was "misleading" a Senate Western Hemisphere subcommittee when he testified the United States did its best to maintain a correct relationship with the Chilean government.

In public testimony during the confirmation process, Kissinger declared the CIA had nothing to do with the Sept. 11, 1973, coup against Allende. But Levinson cited a deleted part of Kissinger's statement which states, "The CIA was heavily involved in 1964 in the election, was in a very minor way involved in the 1970 election and since then we have absolutely stayed away from any coups." Levinson said the impression left by the Kissinger testimony was that there was no more than "minor involvement" in the 1970 election.

Kissinger must have known, Levinson wrote, that expending funds for destabilization in Chile had to enhance the possibility and probability of the coup which took place the day Kissinger testified.

The report cites the repeated testimony of Meyer at the ITT-Chile hearings that U.S. policy was for nonintervention in Chile and that this policy never

00781

Continued

changed. Levinson said the Colby testimony directly contradicts Meyer's testimony and added that Meyer testified the policy could not have been changed without his knowing it.

Helms testified during his confirmation hearing for the ambassadorship to Iran that no money was passed by CIA to opponents of Allende. Levinson said the Harrington version of the Colby testimony contradicts this. Korry refused to answer questions about CIA activities in Chile or communications between the State Department and the embassy when he was in Santiago.

00782